

How can I file a complaint?

Employees and the public may confidentially report violations of the ordinance to the Columbus Health Department by calling 724-4AIR (4247).

Should signs be posted?

Yes. "No Smoking" signs must be prominently posted and maintained where smoking is prohibited. These signs should be placed specifically at all building entrances.

What are the penalties?

Businesses can face a penalty of up to \$150 for each violation.

How can I find more information?

For more information about the Smokefree Indoor Air Act, call the Columbus Health Department at 724-4AIR (4247). You can also get information at department website, at www.cmhhealth.org.

Where can I get information to quit smoking?

If you smoke and want to quit, call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 800-934-4840.



Columbus Health Department
Environmental Health Division
240 Parsons Ave
Columbus, OH 43215

*A Guide for
the Public
to Columbus'*



**Clearing the Air of
Secondhand Smoke:
Answers to Frequently
Asked Questions**



**Columbus Health
Department**
240 Parsons Ave
Columbus, OH 43215
www.cmhhealth.org
614-724-4AIR (4247)

Smokefree Indoor Air Act

Effective November 3, 2004, Smokefree Indoor Air Act (City Code Title 7 Chapter 715) prohibits smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars in the City of Columbus. The ordinance reflects the city's commitment to ensuring that all workers are protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Read on to learn more about the new ordinance.

What is secondhand smoke?

Also called environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 substances, over 50 of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals and many of which are strong irritants. The EPA estimates that

secondhand smoke causes up to 62,000 deaths each year among nonsmokers in the United States. An estimated 300,000 children nationwide develop lower respiratory infections each year as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke, with approximately 15,000 of these children hospitalized due to their infections. Exposure to secondhand smoke is a primary trigger of asthma.

Where is smoking prohibited?

The Smokefree Indoor Act states that smoking shall not be permitted and that no person shall smoke in the following indoor areas:

- Places of employment, including but not limited to:
 - Private offices and work areas;
 - Bars;
 - Restaurants;
 - Company owned vehicles used for business purposes;
- All schools, including school grounds;
- All areas adjacent to the entrance or exit of any enclosed public place or place of employment.

Where is smoking permitted?

Smoking is permitted in the following areas or businesses:

- Private homes and private residences when not used for day care; private automobiles;
- Hotel or motel rooms designated as "smoking," so long as the number of rooms in the building is no more than 20% of the total number of rooms;
- Retail tobacco businesses (primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories, and the sale of other products is incidental);
- Private clubs that are not organized for profit, provided it holds a valid D-4 liquor license and no non-members are present;
- Family owned and operated businesses in which all employees are related to the owner, as long as they are not open to the public and do not affect other businesses or places of employment;
- Outdoor patios that are physically separated from the enclosed area.

How will the act be enforced?

The Columbus Health Department is responsible for enforcement of the Smokefree Indoor Air Act. Staff will respond to complaints called into the public hotline, 724-4AIR (4247).